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ABSTRACT

This report describes accomplishments of the Forest Services's Tribal Relations Program in California, highlighting coordinated efforts with tribal governments and Native American communities throughout California's national forests. The regional office provided intensive training on federal-tribal relations to key staff throughout the region, and developed a draft Regional Tribal Government Resource Book and videotapes on working together with California tribal communities. Local projects in 14 national forests embraced a broad range of efforts in ecosystem and resource management, economic revitalization, heritage resource interpretation, creation of cultural centers, and cultural events aimed at increasing awareness of both Native Americans and the general public visiting the areas. Youth programs included the reconstruction of a Contact Period house in the Cleveland National Forest, environmental restoration work crews, and temporary resource management jobs in many forests. Cultural education activities included the production of two volumes on ethnobotanical resources in the El Dorado National Forest, documentation and demonstration of traditional food gathering and food preparation, redevelopment of basket-making material resources, and taped interviews and video documentation of elders. (RAH)

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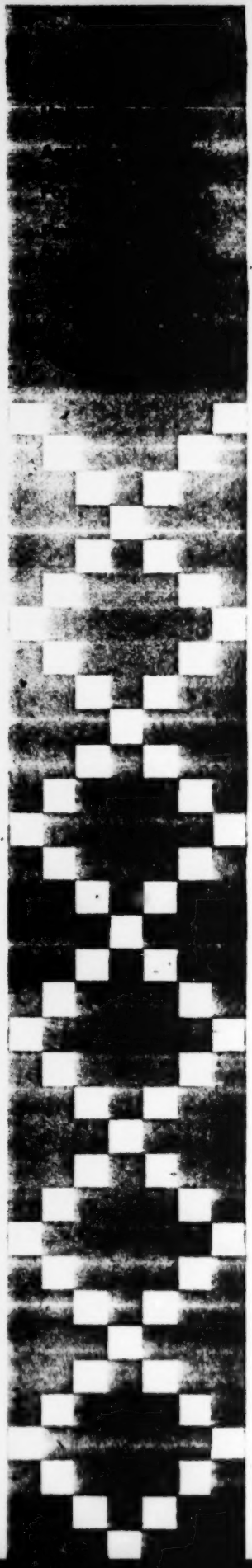

Working Together

California Indians and the Forest Service

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
1994

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RC 019909

MESSAGE FROM G. LYNN SPRAGUE, REGIONAL FORESTER

I am pleased to introduce the 1994 Tribal Relations Program Accomplishment Report. This report highlights our work with with tribal governments and communities. A wide array of activities are represented: cultural events, ecosystem management, economic revitalization, heritage resource interpretation, and others.

I want to personally thank the many tribes and Forest Service people who have worked together this past year. I support your efforts and am committed to continuing to strengthen our tribal partnerships.

G. LYNN SPRAGUE
Regional Forester

REGIONAL OFFICE

During the past year, the Tribal Relations Program focused on building awareness and skills within the Region and strengthening relationships with tribal governments and communities. We were fortunate to have Joseph Myers of the National Indian Justice Center provide the core of an intensive course on federal/tribal relations to key staff throughout the Region. Other presenters included the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the California Indian Basketweavers Association, the California Indian Legal Dispute Resolution Group, Office of Civil Rights, Office of General Counsel, and others who discussed tribal sovereignty, resource partnership opportunities, consultation protocol, litigation, and legislation. We also had a session before the Regional Management Team to discuss government-to-government relationships in a session that included congressional communications and other political relationships.

The development of the draft Regional Tribal Government Resource Book and video tapes on working together with California tribal communities were also major accomplishments along the road to improving relations. The assistance of so many tribal members, organizations, governments and others is gratifying and will help us achieve our mutual goals. The Resource Book will be continously updated to include the latest materials such as the upcoming agreement with DQ University that Pamela Redbird Tate, Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager, is developing.

As you will see as you read this report, there continues to be a number of innovative approaches that tribes and Forests are taking. We hope you find the report useful!

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ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

This year we have made more progress in developing partnerships:

The Forest Supervisor began an outreach program with the local Native American communities introducing the Tribal Relations program and the various associated partnerships and successes. All have been invited to develop similar programs on the Angeles. The invitation also included a brief introduction of the ecosystem management strategy that the Forest will be utilizing and examples on how they can become involved in helping to develop the Forest strategy as it relates to projects of importance to the Native American community (i.e., specific plant propagation). Responses have been received and the next step is to develop specific partnerships with local Native American tribes, organizations and individuals.

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CLEVELAND NF

PINYON PINE PLANTING

Using Pinyon Pine seed collected from the nearby desert, and starting the trees in the Native Plant Nursery, Deveree Volgarirto, Descanso District Botanist, provided 231 pinyon pine and 100 cypress seedlings that were planted on the Manzanita Reservation (Kumeyaay) in January, 1994. This was a demonstration project, designed to provide members of the Manzanita community with the training needed to continue in their efforts to restore native plants to areas on the reservation.

BUILDING A MODEL OF AN ANCIENT HOUSE

In June, 1994, the Descanso District and the Youth Group from the Southern Indian Health Council from Barona Reservation rebuilt the model of a Contact Period house on the Kwaaymii Interpretive Trail. This house model had been built last year with the guidance of Paipai elders and assistance of the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association (LMVA). One of the goals of the Youth Group, coordinated by Teri Sloan, is to provide opportunities for American Indian youth to learn more about their heritage. Laura Lambert, LMVA Liaison Officer, worked closely with the District botanists to identify native plants needed. Using local willow branches and yucca fiber for rope, the Youth Group rebuilt the model which is used weekly in interpretive walks conducted by the LMVA.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

The Native Plant Nursery, on the Descanso District was started by District Botanist Deveree Volgarino in order to have stock to help revegetate damaged areas of the District. This year, the Native Plant Nursery hosted work parties to teach different aspects of restoring native vegetation at sites, native seed collection, planting containerized stock, and maintenance. Members of the Manzanita Band of Mission Indians (Kumeyaay) and and Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians participated in these work parties.

BASKETRY MATERIALS PROJECT

As part of the Forest's effort to protect plants used in traditional Kumeyaay basket making, outreach efforts to the local communties was undertaken in the Spring, 1994. Nathan Craig, Heritage Program Assistant, interviewed members of the Campo, Manzanita, Barona, and Baja California American Indian communities. The most important result of this study was that, in the eyes of many Kumeyaay elders and scholars, basketry can not be separated from the whole of Kumeyaay culture. In order for the Forest Service to manage basket-making plants, it is essential to understand the cultural, ecological, and historic contexts of this craft. Work will be continuing on this project.

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ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST

BASKET MATERIAL GATHERING

Pacific and Placerville Ranger Districts have been working with local basketweavers and other Native Americans to establish herbicide-free plant collection areas within the Cleveland Fire area and other locales. Thus far, two areas have been identified as potentially suitable for establishing desired species. At least one more field trip is planned to identify a third area. These areas are being selected at various elevations to maximize the types of plant species to be established. Other factors being considered are ease of access for elders and appropriateness for traditional practices. Based on concerns over herbicide residue in plants, the Eldorado is also sponsoring scientific studies on various plants of interest to Native Americans.

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ETHNOBOTANICAL RESOURCES

Pacific Ranger District Heritage Resources staff researched and prepared an ethnobotanical resources book of *Native American and Pioneer Uses of Plants in the Wrights Lake Area*. This two volume book of pressed-plant specimens provides a brief culture history of the area and each plant specimen has accompanying text describing various uses. Copies were distributed to tribal groups, and the Eldorado is cooperating with interested, local basketweavers by making the original pressed-plant specimen book available for inspection. During the summer months, the original books (absent ceremonial use information) are located in the Wrights Lake Information Booth, and are available for public use and enjoyment.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Georgetown Ranger District cooperated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide equipment and technical assistance to plant trees on the Shingle Springs Rancheria, El Dorado County. The District provided 200-300 trees, augers, and other planting equipment to stabilize cut banks and fill slopes along a road within the rancheria.

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PARTNERSHIP DISPLAY

Building in last year's success, the Amador Ranger District helped in the development and staffing of a 5 Partnership display at the Amador County Fair. The participants included California State Parks, the Chaw Se Park Association, the Sierra Native American Council, and the El Dorado/Amador Counties Indian Education Program, plus the Forest Service. The theme was how working together, our differences allow us to accomplish more than we could do alone. The program involved hands on activities and demonstrations as well as opportunities for just talking. The display received 2 Blue Ribbons and much praise from the thousands that visited.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Placerville District has developed a partnership with the El Dorado County Office of Education, Indian Education Project, and the El Dorado Indian Council. The programs presented by the Council are designed to promote awareness of Native American culture. Presentations include camp fire talks, demonstrations, walks and talks and are open to campground visitors as well as the general public.

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INYO NATIONAL FOREST

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Inyo NF is well on its way to establishing government-to-government relationships with the 11 Tribal governments who have traditional ties to lands now managed by the Forest. A joint Forest/tribal workshop is being planned for October 18th and 19th, 1994. Invited speakers include Joseph Myers of the National Indian Justice Center and members of the Karuk Tribe of northern California.

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SCHULMAN GROVE

Schulman Groven in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is an international tourist destination. Recently funding has been obtained to build an visitor's center and interpreter Keith Osborne of the White Mountain Ranger District has been working closely with elders of the Bishop and Big Pine tribes, and board members of the Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center in developing the displays. Construction work began this spring.

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NATIVE AMERICAN SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM

This year Mary Wuester and Noreen Sellberg, tribal members of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Indian Reservation, accepted appointments as Native American Special Emphasis Program Managers. They have installed an informational bulletin board in the Supervisor's Office which provides information on current news in Indian country, Cultural Activities, Pow-Wows and news articles of interest. Mary and Noreen have also facilitated inclusion of local traditional Tuyowahamato Singers (Paiute singers) at a Regional Management Team meeting hosted on the Inyo and a Native American display at the Federal Women's Program.

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YUROK YOUTH RESOURCE CREW

For two years now, Tom Gates of the Mt. Whitney Ranger District has invited a crew of Yurok youths to the Inyo NF to work on resource rehabilitation projects. This year, they were accompanied by elders of their tribe and joined by members of the Big Pine and Bishop Paiute tribes. Their tour this year also included a trip with Assistant Forest Archaeologist Jan Cutts into the White Mountains to visit the unique high altitude village sites located there. Bertha Moose, an elder of Big Pine tribe, also joined in on the trip.

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PIUGA PARK

The Mono Lake Indian Community, the Mono Basin Historical Society, and the Inyo NF came together in October 1993 to dedicate Piuga Park to the Kuzedika'a (Mono Lake Paiute) elders and Mother Earth. The park is in a grove of old-growth Jeffrey Pine trees, all of which have rings around their base. These rings were used to trap piuga--Pandora moth caterpillars--an important food in prehistoric times and still enjoyed as a traditional delicacy. Nearby is a storage structure, where the piuga were kept after they had been roasted.

The dedication was led by Marshall Jack of the Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony with a presentation was made by Debbie Austin, Mammoth Lakes District Ranger. Not all of the elders could make it on the dedication day due to bad weather, so a field trip was arranged this summer. Tribal Government Program Manager Linda Reynolds and Archeologist Wally Woolfenden accompanied elders Frieda Brown of the Antelope Valley Indian Community, Jessie Durant of the Mono Lake Indian Community, and Ruth Brown of the Bishop Paiute Tribe to the park in July. (See picture.)

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PIUGA PARK ELDERS FREIDA BROWN OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY INDIAN COMMUNITY, JESSIE DURANT OF THE MONO LAKE INDIAN COMMUNITY, AND RUTH BROWN OF BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE WITH TRIBAL YOUTHS AND FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST

AGREEMENTS

Two Memoranda of Understanding have been signed by the Karuk Tribe of California and the Quartz Valley Reservation with the Klamath National Forest. A subsequent Participating Agreement with the Karuk Tribe has been developed for the Wooley Creek Trail Project. Other Participating Agreements with the Quartz Valley Reservation have addressed the Scott River Vexar Tubing Project, the Bear Country Riparian Plant and Release Project, and the Salmon River Trail Restoration Project.

CULTURALLY IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

In cooperation with the Karuk Tribe and the Quartz Valley Reservation, the Tribal Government Program has been active in a variety of issues. Discussions include designating ceremonial areas as special management areas with individual management prescriptions developed for them. The Klamath is also in the process of restoring oak groves to some culturally important areas. Paula McCarthy, the Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager for the Forest, diligently continues to support improving management of contemporary gathering areas. Burning for beargrass and willow, and cutting huckleberry, for example, is increasing steadily. Ongoing discussions between the Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests and the Karuk Tribe is facilitating resolution of mushroom harvesting issues.

The Tribal Government Program has held archaeological field training for the Quartz Valley Reservation Tribal Chairman and has assisted the Siskiyou National Forest in implementing their program.

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LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT

PINE NUT COLLECTING

Basin employee Butch James, from the Woodfords Washoe Colony, led a group of LTBMU employees and family members to a pine nut gathering. The group became acquainted with preparation and cooking traditions.

WA-SHE SHU WAY EVENT

Sponsored by the Forest Service and the Washoe Tribe, this annual event rebuilds traditional summer shelters and a winter house once commonly utilized by the Washoe peoples. Elder tribal members taught the public traditional house construction methods.

SITE DEDICATION AND INTERPRETATION

Lam Watah, a prehistoric and ethnographic food processing site in Stateline, Nevada, was dedicated by Teresa Jackson and Joanne Martinez, elders of the Washoe Tribe. Their demonstration of the traditional method of reusing old milling features was filmed by award winning film maker, Joanne Peden.

Lam Watah is also the study site for a University of Nevada, Reno Masters Thesis developed in cooperation with the LTBMU Heritage Resource Program and the Washoe Tribe. Laurie Walsh is developing the interpretation of this site for Washoe youth and the general public.

ORAL HISTORIES

The Basin continues to support taped interviews and video documentation of Washoe Elders. This two-year project is directed by Tom King, Director of the Oral History Program of the University of Nevada, Reno.

BASKET MATERIALS AND OTHER USEFUL PLANTS

The Basin is working with the Cultural Resource Coordinator for the Washoe Tribe in preparing slides and information for reintroduction of traditional Washoe plant management at two sites. These areas were selected for ease of access for elders and for their tribal and traditional use. The presentations will be at senior centers and will result in identifying Washoe ecosystem management initiatives.

CULTURAL CENTER

Bob Harris, Forest Supervisor and Brian Wallace, Washoe Tribal Chair are working together in the development of the Washoe Cultural Center, located on the Basin.

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LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST

AGREEMENT

On June 29, 1994, acting Forest Supervisor, Tom W. Simonson and the Pit River Tribal Chairperson, Loomis D. Jackson, met at the Supervisor's Office and jointly signed the "Employment Tribal and Training Agreement between Pit River Tribe and Forest Service, Lassen National Forest". This document authorizes the Lassen NF and the Pit River Tribe to enter into cooperative activities for the purpose of development and implementation of a program of Forest Resource Protection, Development, and Improvement. This includes, but is not limited to, slash disposal, reforestation, erosion control, fisheries and wildlife habitat improvement, and other forest land conservation measures. The Hat Creek has entered into two contracts to the Pit River Tribe. In the SO, Jim Johnston, Lassen NF Archaeologist, has hired a tribal member to work with his field crew and this was made possible through the new document. While many people assisted in the development of the agreement, the Lassen NF Budget and Finance Officer, Bonnie Britton made an extraordinary effort to ensure it effectiveness.

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BIG DOINGS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

BY MARVIN BENNER

IT WAS AROUND THE FIRST PART OF MAY OF THIS YEAR WHEN THE BEAR DANCE COMMITTEE WENT OUT TO THE ROXIE PECONOM CAMPGROUND TO PLAN THE ANNUAL SPRING RITE. THE CAMPGROUND WAS THE PERFECT PLACE TO MEET AND DISCUSS THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES. THE DAY WAS BETWEEN WARM AND COOL AND WITHOUT ANY CLOUDS. ONE COULD CERTAINLY SMELL THE FRAGRANCE FROM THE YELLOW PINE AND FIR. NOT TOO FAR IN THE DISTANCE THE PEACEFUL SOUNDS OF ROXIE PECONOM CREEK COULD BE HEARD. THIS WAS A PLEASANT TIME. ONE BY ONE THE MEMBERS SHOWED UP AND WERE GREETED. THESE GREETINGS WERE SUCH AS, "HEY, YOU'RE STILL LOOKING GOOD. YOU MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT. IT MUST BE THAT FRY BREAD." AND THE RESPONSE SOMETIMES, "THANK YOU, AND YOU LOOK GOOD TOO. YOU HARDLY GOT ANY GRAY HAIR. HOW YOU STAY SO YOUNG LOOKING?" THE MEMBERS LAUGHED SINCERELY. THIS WAS SMALL TALK BUT THE FELLOWSHIP WAS GREAT. "I THINK THERE'S GONNA BE MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN LAST YEAR", AN ELDER SPOKE. "I HEARD SOME PEOPLE WERE COMING IN FROM OREGON," A MEMBER SAID. "THIS BEAR DANCE GETS BIGGER EACH YEAR," SOMEONE ELSE SAID. "BOY, WE HAD TO FEED A LOTTA PEOPLE," ANOTHER ADDED. I SOMETIMES WONDER HOW IT WAS A 100 YEARS OR PERHAPS 200 YEARS AGO WHEN PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER TO PLAN A "BIG TIME"? DID THEY LAUGH AND SHARE STORIES WHILE THEY GROUNDED OUT THEIR ACORN OR WHATEVER THEIR PREPARATIONS WERE? DID THEY LOOK FORWARD TO UPCOMING CEREMONIES? DID THEY GET EXCITED AT PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY MIGHT SEE OLD FRIENDS OR THE SPECIAL FOODS AND DANCING. OR WAS THERE SOME BAD NEWS THAT AN OLD LOVEDONE OR FRIEND DIDN'T SURVIVE THE WINTER? DID FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES COME AND PUT THEIR ARMS AROUND THE MOURNING AND HEAR THEIR WORDS OF SADNESS? TODAY, I HEAR THOSE SAME CONCERNS. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN PEOPLE WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER; THERE SEEMS TO ALWAYS BE SOMEONE AMONGST THEM THAT HAS THAT RARE GIFT OF MAKING YOU SMILE IF NOT LAUGH; THEY ARE SPECIAL.

SOON THE LAUGHTER AND TEARS SUBSIDE AS OTHER CONCERNS SUCH AS, WHO WANTS TO HEAD UP THE DESSERT COMMITTEE, OR WHO WANTS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE FRY BREAD, ACORN SOUP, SALMON BAKE, VEGETABLES, BREAKFAST COMMITTEES, ETC.? THE POMO/MAIDU DANCERS ARE CONTACTED AND MADE AWARE OF THE CEREMONY. THE EAGLE LAKE DISTRICT OF THE LASSEN NF IS A PRIMARY CONTACT IN ORDER TO GATHER MATERIALS FOR THE SPRING RITE. THIS YEAR THE DISTRICT RANGER AUTHORIZED A LARGE CEDAR TREE TO BE CUT FOR ADDITIONAL SEATING AND TABLE PURPOSES. THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AIDED IN CUTTING HE TREE FOR THE SAME REASON. EARLIER IN THE YEAR, KING SALMON WAS GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO THE BEAR DANCE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SPRING RITE. THIS YEAR THERE WERE SOME DISCUSSIONS ON BUILDING A ROUND HOUSE. THIS CERTAINLY WOULD BE NO SMALL ENDEAVOR.

THE BEAR DANCE WAS HELD IN JUNE AND WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS. THIS WAS DUE TO GOOD AMERICAN INDIAN, STATE, LOCAL BUSINESS AND LASSEN NF INVOLVEMENT.

MENDOCINO NF

BEARGRASS PROJECT

The Forest is studying the possibility of reintroducing beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) populations in the northwestern part of the forest. The adjacent Round Valley Reservation teaches courses in traditional basketry and their museum contains baskets made from beargrass. They knew of no local populations and wondered if adjacent national forest land had any populations that could be used. Since no known populations were known, we decided to investigate the possibility of propagating specimens from nursery stock for possible reintroduction. Since the nursery stock are from serpentine soils, this plant also has potential use for restoration efforts on these soils. We purchased all the available plants (n=40) from a nursery and they are now at our Genetic Research Center in Chico where the propagation efforts are underway.

NOME CULT TRAIL INTERPRETATION

Signs were developed for the Nome Cult Trail to commemorate the 1863 forced relocation of 461 Indians from the east side of the Sacramento Valley and adjacent foothills to the Nome Cult Farm (now Round Valley Reservation) in the North Coast Ranges. The interpretive project focuses on the hardships endured by the Indians during this 100 mile forced march. Signs will be located in the vicinity of the places the Indians and soldiers stayed while crossing the forest. A self-guided brochure is also currently being designed.

NYE CABIN PASSPORTS IN TIME PROJECT

This Passports in Time (PIT) project, where volunteers join Forest Service employees in doing heritage resource projects, included archaeological excavation of prehistoric site components. A representative from the Grindstone Rancheria was hired and actively participated in the project. She worked with volunteers who gained an appreciation for Indian culture, and information regarding prehistory and contemporary ceremonies were shared. It was a very positive experience for all, and there are plans to do another PIT project involving Grindstone Rancheria in FY 95.

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MODOC NATIONAL FOREST

The Tribal Government Program has been assisted by the cooperation of the Forest Engineer, Forest Civil Rights Officer, Public Affairs Officer, Forest Archaeologist, Timber/ Recreation Officer, the Writer-Editor in the Land Management Planning Section, the Devil's Garden Archaeologist, the Big Valley Archaeologist, Forest Historian, Warner Mountain Timber Management Officer, Silviculturist, Forester and the Doublehead, Big Valley, and Warner Mountain District Rangers. The following summarizes key activities:

Provided information on Tribal contacts and protocol for Forest Public Notification Plan.

Utilized the Cooperative Agreement between the Region and California Indian Manpower Consortium to respond to the Pit River Tribal Council requests. An individual selected by the Tribal Council will be employed in Archaeology and will report monthly to the Tribal Council.

Met with Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council at Ft. Bidwell to begin formal consultation on the Native American Graves Protection Act (NAGPRA). NAGPRA consultation will soon occur with Pit River and Klamath Tribes.

Began formal consultation with the Hammawi Band of the Pit River Tribe on Parsnip Basin Forest Health Recovery Project and Eagle Recovery Plan. This has included meetings at the Pit River Tribal Office and field trips to planning area.

Beginning consultation with the Klamath Tribe for Geothermal Exploration in the Medicine Lake Highlands.

Assisted Eastside Ecosystem Management Project, Region Six, with information on protocol and with who to contact from Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council and the Pit River Tribes.

On-going assistance with the Modoc County Heritage Commission (MCHC), comprised of the Heweisedawi and Astariwawi Band leaders of the Pit River Tribe, to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Modoc National Forest concerning heritage resources.

Advised MCHC of procedures and contacts when dealing with Federal/State, Agencies and private landholders.

Presented planned Forest projects with the MCHC and discussed the heritage resources located within the project Areas of Potential Effect, and solicited their concerns and ideas.

Advised MCHC of grants available from the Federal Government.

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Forest has been working with the Covelo Indian Community who received a Forest Service Pacific Northwest Rural Community Assistance grant to develop a natural resource enhancement program. The program objectives are to identify needs in reforestation and anadromous fisheries and to develop a plan of intergrated management of natural resources on Round Valley Indian Reservation lands. Training workshops and field demonstrations will be conducted for tribal staff and community members in preparation for the implementation phase of the management plan.

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LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIS BRIEFINGS

In early June, the Forest decided that it needed to make more of an effort to communicate with the local Federally recognized Native American tribes regarding the proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft EIS. We had received a moderate number of letters during the comment period, though none of the letters could be associated with Native American groups. In the past we had concentrated our public involvement and communication through written correspondence. Recognizing this type of communication was not effective, District Rangers were commissioned to contact tribal representatives with an offer of meetings to review the LRMP and the effects of Option 9, and to inquire any concerns, comments, and issues. A Round Valley Tribal Council meeting was scheduled and conducted. After a brief overview of the LRMP, council members asked various questions and provided their thoughts on a wide range of topics which were shared with the Forest Management Team.

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PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

NORTHERN SIERRA INDIAN DAYS, QUINCY, CALIFORNIA

The Plumas National Forest (PNF) has a tradition of partnership with communities we serve. As part of PNF Rural Community Development, Northern Sierra Indian Days (NSID) provides an excellent opportunity to provide financial and physical support for a significant cultural awareness event. Many Plumas County organizations and the PNF are part of the consortium that plans and implements the annual event - including Plumas County Indians Inc., the Roundhouse Council, Quincy Mainstreet, local businesses, the PNF Heritage Resources, Tribal Government, and Civil Rights Programs. NSID event is a celebration of American Indian traditional and contemporary arts and Pow Wow, including dancing, drumming and singing, traditional dress and foods, craft demonstrations, arts and crafts show and sale. This year marks the 5th annual gathering for the event and is dedicated to honoring the veterans on the 50th anniversary of WWII.

The PNF developed a Challenge Cost Share Agreement contributing $1,000. Another thing we are doing this year, as in past years, is staffing a PNF Program exhibit and information booth, providing Fire Prevention personnel, and volunteers to help carry out the event itself. The NSID event brings together the communities of northern California and the Sierra Nevada for two days (September 17-18, 1994) in a multicultural setting. The event also provides a short term economic boost for local businesses and tourism.

HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAMS

More than one dozen American Indian youth are participating in the Human Resource Programs this year. PNF continues to maintain Tribal Government relations and partnerships with tribal councils and organizations in California through the use of California Indian Manpower Consortium, Private Industry Council, and Job Training Partnership Act. Temporary positions across the PNF in fire suppression, recreation, forestry, and heritage resources have been filled using Human Resource Programs. These PNF positions provide work experience in various career fields in the Forest Service, get work projects done, and represent significant cost saving measures.

AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES IN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Forest-wide presentations on the topic of Ecosystem, Environmental, and Vegetation Management by California Indians, by author Dr. Kat Anderson were accomplished in 1994. PNF Botany, Heritage Resources and Tribal Government Programs collaborated to plan and implement this Forest-wide event. The presentations were well attended by the public and local Indian communities.

TRADITIONAL GATHERING AREAS

Two beargrass gathering areas have been established on the Oroville R.D. One of the two areas was burned in November of 1993; the second area is scheduled to be burned this fall. Mushroom and tea gathering areas on the LaPorte R.D. are also scheduled for prescribed burning this fall.

STIVER INDIAN CEMETERY

On the Quincy Greenville Ranger District of the PNF, the Stiver Cemetery Association has been managing and maintaining an Indian Cemetery first used in the 1800's. This .63 acre parcel of PNF land is administered under Special Use Permit between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Forest Service.

INTERPRETIVE AUTOMOBILE TOUR AND BROCHURE: *Ancient Trail of the Mountain Maidu*

An interpretive 2 hour automobile tour and brochure has been developed by the Plumas and Lassen National Forests. The automobile tour takes the Forest visitor on paved highway between Quincy and Susanville California and follows an ancient trail through the land of the Mountain Maidu Indians. This 24 page brochure, with photos was developed with the assistance, cooperation, and support of many of the Mountain Maidu tribal individuals and groups, the Roundhouse Council of Greenville, Plumas Co, Susanville Rancheria, the Lassen and Plumas National Forests, and the Plumas County Economic Development Group. The cover art, "Sunrise Prayer at the Bear Dance", was drawn and donated by a Maidu/Pit River artist and former resident of Greenville. The brochure is dedicated to the Maidu elders and storytellers.

The Maidu people believe that these mountain lands were created for the Maidu after a great flood. When the waters subsided "Worldmaker" set out to inspect this land following a trail that would become a major travel route for the Maidu people. This is the trail one follows as they travel along the route put forth in the brochure.

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AN ANCIENT TRAIL

OF THE MOUNTAIN MAIDU INDIANS

AN AUTOMOBILE TOUR

SAN BERNARDINO NF

BIG BEAR VISITOR CENTER

A new Visitor Center is being planned for construction on the North Shore of Big Bear Lake of the San Bernardino National Forest. The interpretive planning staff for the Visitor Center contacted Ernest Siva, a Serrano Indian, to review their plans for a Serrano exhibit. Siva is a musicology instructor at the University of California, Los Angeles. A major component of the exhibit is an audio tape of a Serrano legend followed by a Serrano song. Siva helped the staff select the legend and described its meaning to the Serranos. He also offered to sing the song in a recording session at a later date. The exhibit plans are now complete. Fabrication will begin in the spring of 1995. The building construction will also begin in the spring.

AGUA ALTA

The San Bernardino National Forest has entered into a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with the Siva Family to help one another accomplish mutually beneficial objectives related to the long term management of the Agua Alta Spring area. Agua Alta is a former habitation site of the Cahuilla people with whom the Siva Family have ties of direct descent. Evidence of prehistoric activities include milling surfaces for food preparation, roasting pits, ceramics, lithic materials from which stone tools were made, shell and obsidian which were imported into the area, and human remains. The Siva Family is most concerned in the identification and protection of these human remains.

The Challenge Cost-Share Agreement calls for Native American participation to determine procedures to physically protect the sites from disturbances, make any necessary collection of artifacts that appear in danger of being illegally removed from the site, augment existing documentation of the sites, and establish a plan to monitor the culturally sensitive areas.

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SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

HELPING EACH OTHER

In partnership with the Kern Valley Indian Community, the planning and design of the Native American Interpretive Center at Lake Isabella continued. The architectural plans were completed and given to the Tribal Council for final approval in June 1994. The Kern Valley Indian Community will begin construction in September with completion by June 1995.

The Hot Springs Ranger District consulted with the Tule River Elders Council concerning archaeological excavations at a large prehistoric village site. JR (Leonard) Manuel, Archaeological Technician, has served as the Native American monitor on this project. Manuel, who is a member of the Kern Valley Indian Community Council, also provides feedback to the tribe on this and other projects on the Forest. Elders have participated throughout the excavations.

Tribal Government Program Manager, Stephanie Tungate, is working with the Forest Management Team and local tribal governments and organizations to facilitate tribal involvement in the Forest's project planning. She was recently elected as an Council Advisor to the Kern Valley Indian Community Tribal Council.

In addition, Stephanie is also a member and Vice-President of the Native American Heritage Committee of Tulare County which plans and sponsors the Porterville Pow Wow (Celebration '94), one of the largest such celebrations in the State. At this event, the Forest Service has an information booth and seasonal employment information. Districts have actively pursued employment of Native American youth through the California Indian Manpower Consortium. Individuals selected have worked on both suppression and pre-suppression crews.

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SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST

TRIBAL RELATIONSHIP ACTION PLAN

Building trust and understanding between Native American communities and the Forest Service and developing a better understanding of Native American traditional cultural values associated with Mt. Shasta are the goals of an action plan developed for the current fiscal year. Objectives included in the Action Plan include:

Increase knowledge of Tribal Governments and Native American values.

Create clear understanding of roles and responsibilities of Forest Service representatives relative to Native Americans.

Develop a meaningful Protocol to strengthen relationships, improve communication, interaction, and understanding between the Forest Service and Native American Tribes.

Develop more effective relationships with tribal representatives by enhancing issue resolution skills.

Share knowledge and create understanding of opportunities available in economic development grants.

Improve Forest Service knowledge of uses of indigenous plants and horticultural techniques.

Enhance knowledge of responsibilities for the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act.

GRANT TO LOCAL INDIANS FOR EDUCATION

As part of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative, a grant application was funded to increase employment in the Native American community by expanding existing programs and by developing Native American activities that will draw tourist dollars into the community. This project includes hiring of Native Americans to staff a retail store at the Cultural/Resource Center to provide a local outlet for Native American art and craft items. It also includes recruiting and training Native American artisans. And the project will involve coordination with Shasta Dam Area businesses and other organizations to develop a marketing plan to promote tourism in the City of Shasta Lake. The retail facility will provide tourism information in terms of attractions and services in the area.

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SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST

JUMP DANCE CEREMONIES

Karuk spiritual leaders conducted the Jump Dance Ceremony at the village of Amaikiaram for the first time in 99 years this July. A unique partnership developed between the spiritual leaders, the Karuk Tribe, Six Rivers National Forest and adjacent private property owners which allowed for the successful completion of the dance. During the 10-day ceremony, about 80-100 people a day attended, with the last weekend drawing over 300 people in one day. Amaikiaram is located on the Orleans RO which generated the need for employees to be proactive in assisting the dance leaders in providing for a fire safe ceremony. The Forest Service also needed to gain vehicle access in order to carry out its administrative responsibilities associated with the National Forest lands. We were able to negotiate an agreement with the adjacent property owners to allow for vehicle access across their property onto National Forest property where the ceremony was occurring. The Jump Dance "travels" on the 9th day over a six mile route to four separate dance grounds along the way, all located on National Forest lands. It was quite an inspiring sight to see the dancers traveling the trails to each dance ground with 250-300 people following. The last dance ground is located along the Klamath River bar. The Forest Supervisor issued a Klamath River restricted use notice, for those without previous permits, for the duration of the dance to accommodate the needs for privacy in carrying out the ceremonies.

BEAR GRASS BURNING

The Orleans District was successful in broadcast underburning four acres of bear grass for use in Native American basketry. Members of the Karuk and Yurok Basketweavers Association were on site during the burn. The District is planning to burn another three to five acre area of bear grass this fall as part of our on-going program to provide traditional basketry materials for Native American weavers.

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STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

1994 GATHERING OF THE CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETWEAVERS ASSOCIATION

For the second year in a row, the Stanislaus National Forest is proud to have co-hosted the annual gathering of the California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA) in conjunction with the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council. The gathering was held at the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Rancheria near Sonora, California, during the last weekend in June, 1994.

Public events included two basketweaving symposia with expert speakers, a Basketweavers' Showcase, demonstrations of in acorn processing and preparation, beargrass braiding, milkweed cordage, soaproot brush manufacture, manzanita cider preparation and, of course, basketry. Traditional storytelling, dancing, and singing concluded Saturday's events. The other two days of the gathering were spent in weaving and sharing among the Basketweavers, and a Learner's Circle for new weavers. All of this took place in the soothing oak-studded environment of the Rancheria, with camping spots nearby, and delicious meals provided for all.

This year, more than 25 Forest Service employees from different staffs and Forests volunteered their time and energy. Stanislaus Forest Supervisor Janet Wold, Summit District Ranger Karen Caldwell, and Mi-Wok District Ranger Ann Denton were among those who helped out. In addition, youthful participants in the job shadowing program from the Tahoe National Forest helped with cleanup and "muscle" work, while enjoying a unique learning experience among tribal elders. Thanks to these experiences, co-hosting the Basketweavers' gathering for two years in a row has been inspiring and educational for the Stanislaus and its employees.

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STANISLAUS' RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENDEAVORS WITH TRIBES DURING 1994

TUOLUMNE ME-WUK TRIBE

During 1994, the tribe administered two Forest Service grants - one for a Wood Products Manufacturing Business and a second grant for an Economic Feasibility Study for the Tuolumne Rancheria. The tribe also implemented a $200,000 Administration of Native American grant to build a native plant nursery.

MARIPOSA COUNCIL OF INDIANS

During the past year, the Forest has established a new relationship with the Mariposa Council of Indians in working toward rural development goals. The Council works closely with Mariposa County which has received a $16,000 grant to complete a Traditional Crafts Manufacturing Project Feasibility Study, working with tribal members.

WASHOE TRIBE OF CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA

This year, Alpine County working with the Washoe Tribe, received funding for a Fish Hatchery Feasibility Study on Washoe lands. Regions 4 and 5 each contributed $10,000 toward the study. The project reflects a combined effort to create a small, environmentally and culturally compatible business.

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1994 NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP

Recognizing the need to understand and promote access to gathering sites for the local Me-Wuk, Stanislaus National Forest employees met with members of the Me-Wuk community to discuss solutions. From these discussions it was decided that a workshop was in order to raise the level of awareness of forest workers to the needs of the local Me-Wuk. Groveland District Botanist, Jennie Haas took the lead and conducted two well-received sessions entitled, "Native American Plant Workshop", May 10 & 24, 1994. Combined, these two successful workshops were enthusiastically attended by over 50 people including Stanislaus National Forest employees, California Department of Forestry, as well as members of the Native American community.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the input from the Native American participants who shed light on why gathering plants are important to keeping their cultural heritage alive. During the workshop, Jennie presented a slide program on native plants and their identification. Afterwards, we took to the field where we saw first hand many of the plants that had been discussed. In addition, Jennie distributed a form she developed so field-goers can properly document locations of plants used by Native Americans. This form will help to track plants and be compiled into a Forest wide atlas for future gathering and a tool for managing traditional landscapes.

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